

C08-57

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ALPINE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

P.O. BOX 158
MARKLEEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96120

TELEPHONE
530-694-2281
FAX
530-694-2491

August 5, 2008

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Climate Change Scoping Plan, June 2008 Discussion Draft

Dear Chair Nichols:

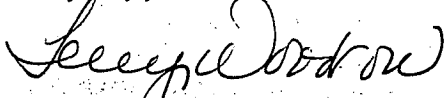
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the June 2008 Discussion Draft of the Climate Change Scoping Plan. Alpine County appreciates the efforts of the Air Resources Board (ARB) to reach out to local governments during this process.

Recent wildfires statewide have had major impacts on air quality, contributing significantly to California's carbon and particulate emissions. Alpine County has been fortunate thus far in that no major catastrophic fires have occurred this season within its boundaries. However, even its remote rural location and high elevation did not spare residents from the effects of the diminished air quality and periods of "air stagnation" resulting from catastrophic wildfires in Napa, Solano, Mariposa and Monterey counties. Most of the more than 800 wildfires burning in California occurred on National Forest (USFS) lands.

With serious fuels loading and the cumulative effect of drought threatening forest health, thousands of acres of forest lands will needlessly burn, releasing even more carbon and further contributing to poor air quality. Located in the wildland-urban interface, Alpine County maintains that many of those fires, along with the corresponding emissions, could be prevented if USFS lands were more efficiently managed. We are concerned that the Draft Scoping Plan makes only a vague mention of fuels reduction and fails to address emissions from fires on USFS lands.

Alpine County strongly urges ARB to include in the Final Draft Scoping Plan a firm commitment by the state to join with local governments to advocate at the federal level for enhanced management on USFS lands, as well as an extensive program to quantify wildfire emissions that could be avoided through better forest management practices. This is vital not only in meeting the goals of AB 32, but more importantly to improving the quality of the air and public health. We thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Very truly yours,



Terry Woodrow
Chair

CC: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Members, California Air Resources Board

